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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STEPHENIE SAPP

Plaintiff,

vs.

HECTOR ROMERO-MORAN,

Defendant.

Case No.: 8:19-cv-00032

COMPLAINT FOR A CIVIL CASE  
ALLEGING NEGLIGENCE

Plaintiff Stephenie Sapp, for her complaint for damages against Hector Romero-Moran, states as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff Stephenie Sapp (herein "Plaintiff" or "Ms. Sapp") is a resident of the State of Arizona.
2. On the date of the accident giving rise to this action, Hector Romero-Moran ("Defendant") was a resident of the State of California, and upon information and belief, currently resides in San Juan Capistrano, Orange County, California.

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

3. This is an action to recover damages occasioned by the automotive negligence of Defendant.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this matter involving diverse parties in which the matter in dispute exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and

1 costs of court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, because Ms. Sapp has suffered  
2 personal injuries of a severe and permanent nature as alleged in substantial detail  
3 hereinbelow.

4 5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because he is a resident of  
5 San Juan Capistrano, California.

6 6. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(1), and intra  
7 district venue is proper because Defendant is domiciled in the Southern District of  
8 California.

9 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
10 **Negligence**

11 7. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference herein each and every  
12 allegation set forth herein as if set forth fully hereat.

13 8. On January 14, 2017, Ms. Sapp was the passenger in a 2000 Toyota Corolla  
14 stopped on the side of the road on California on SR-18, 37ft North of SR-38, in an  
15 unincorporated area of San Bernardino County.

16 9. Defendant was driving a 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe on the same icy road, in the  
17 same direction as the Corolla stopped on the roadside.

18 10. Defendant failed to exercise reasonable care in driving his vehicle by driving  
19 at a speed excessive for the conditions then and there existing, and due to his  
20 negligent driving, lost control of the Tahoe.

21 11. As a result of Defendant's negligence, as Ms. Sapp sat belted into the  
22 passenger seat, Defendant rear-ended the Toyota with the Tahoe.

23 12. The collision channeled a severe impact into the rear of the Toyota, completely  
24 compacting the trunk and hurling Ms. Sapp forward with such force that her  
25 fastened seat belt failed to restrain her and her face hit the dashboard, traumatically  
26 fracturing her nose and driving fragments of her prescription glasses into her face  
27 and nose. She was instantly bleeding profusely and suffering excruciating pain.

28 13. Ms. Sapp was diagnosed as suffering an open displaced comminuted nasal  
fracture with multiple deep lacerations to the nose, and foreign bodies lodged in

1 the stellate wound. She exhibited severe swelling, epistaxis, deep laceration with  
2 bleeding involving the bridge of the nose, and deformity. Multiple foreign bodies  
3 were extracted from her face with forceps, the stellate wound was repaired with  
4 sutures, bleeding was controlled, and she was discharged with are prescription for  
5 painkillers and directions to obtain surgical care.

6 14. Although Ms. Sapp was able to schedule a prompt visit to an ear, nose and  
7 throat doctor ("ENT"), because of the severity of the fracture, immediate surgery  
8 could not be performed. The ENT removed additional pieces of impacted plastic  
9 from Ms. Sapp's face, and re-stitched the wound. In an unsuccessful effort to push  
10 a bone protruding from the left side of her nose back into place by pushing a rod up  
11 her nostril, Ms. Sapp suffered the most excruciating pain of her life. Severely  
12 traumatized and dazed from the unsuccessful, agonizing procedure, Ms. Sapp went  
13 home and slept twelve hours straight.

14 15. When the cast and stitches were removed from Ms. Sapp's face, the protruding  
15 bone on the left side of her nose appeared more pronounced, she suffered from  
16 nasal obstruction of the left nostril, and was afflicted with pain that restricted  
17 making some facial expressions.

18 16. Ms. Sapp was unable to obtain surgery for eleven months, during which she  
19 suffered increasing, agonizing emotional distress and humiliation from seeing the  
20 pink and red scar that slashed diagonally across the bridge of her nose, disfiguring  
21 her formerly highly-attractive face. Seeing pre-accident pictures of herself  
22 provoked spontaneous weeping.

23 17. Previous to the accident, Ms. Sapp had worked as a hair stylist, a model, and  
24 performed background work in motion pictures. After the accident, she became  
25 fearful of meeting her clients in the mirror-lined salon, and did not seek work in  
26 the modeling or film industry.

27 18. In February 2017 she was diagnosed with depression and prescribed an  
28 antidepressant. Towards the end of March, she was diagnosed with General

1 Anxiety Disorder. Ms. Sapp lost appetite, and although previously slender, her  
2 weight decreased by fifteen pounds.

3 19. Sleep became impossible for Ms. Sapp, due to soreness in her neck and fears  
4 for her health and economic future. Her depression worsened, and on May 18,  
5 2017, Ms. Sapp was diagnosed with depression, and was prescribed additional  
6 therapy and medication.

7 20. Some workdays, after a sleepless night of anxious thoughts, Ms. Sapp was too  
8 depressed to go to work. She suffered anxiety while driving, and found the  
9 commute to work highly stressful, and on occasion, prevented her from even trying  
10 to drive to work. In June 2017, Ms. Sapp lost her job when her employers  
11 complained that she had been absent too often. At the end of June, Ms. Sapp's  
12 relationship with her significant other failed under the strain, and the young man  
13 ended the relationship.

14 21. On December 5, 2018, Ms. Sapp received a septorhinoplasty that corrected  
15 much of the dysfunction in her breathing, corrected the displacement of the bone in  
16 her nose, and reduced the severity of the scarring; however, the surgeons  
17 recommended future surgery to revise residual scarring across the bridge of Ms.  
18 Sapp's nose.

19 22. As a proximate and legal cause of Defendant's negligence, Ms. Sapp has  
20 suffered economic damages in the amount of not less than \$65,000, inclusive of  
21 medical expenses, lost wages, and borrowings necessitated to cover life expenses  
22 during her period of unemployment. Ms. Sapp will suffer future economic  
23 damages in the form of medical expenses for plastic surgery to complete scar  
24 revisions and therapy, at an estimated cost of \$100,000. Ms. Sapp will suffer  
25 future lost wages in the amount of \$20,000. Ms. Sapp has suffered non-economic  
26 damages in the amount of \$2,000,000, being the reasonable value of suffering  
27 agonizing and continuous facial, head, neck, shoulder and back pain due to the  
28 initial impact, residual trauma, and painful treatments necessary to treat the

1 injuries, and the extreme anguish, pain, humiliation, embarrassment, depression,  
2 and anxiety that resulted from facial disfigurement, and due to unemployment,  
3 poverty, and loss of social status and friendships as a consequence of economic  
4 displacement.

5  
6 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests entry of judgment in its favor and against  
8 Defendant as follows:

- 9 1. For past economic damages in the amount of \$65,000;  
10 2. For future economic damages in the amount of \$100,000;  
11 3. For past and future non-economic damages in the amount of \$2,000,000;  
12 4. For all recoverable costs of litigation; and,  
13 5. Such other and further relief that this Court may deem just and proper.

14 Dated: January 7, 2019

CHARLES CARREON  
Attorney at Law,

16  
17 By:   
18 CHARLES CARREON (CSB #127139)  
Attorney for Plaintiff Stephenie Sapp